

Manitoba PC Caucus Review

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GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA

January 11, 2018

ANNOUNCES FIRST SOCIAL IMPACT BOND



The Manitoba government has entered a partnership with the Southern First Nations Network of Care (SFNNC) to deliver the province's first-ever Social Impact Bond (SIB), Families Minister Heather Stefanson announced this week.

"We want to help strengthen the bond between mothers and children to reduce the number of infants apprehended into the child welfare system," said Stefanson. "Social impact bonds are an innovative way for government to work together with the private sector and community groups to find new solutions to pressing social challenges. Our landmark SIB in child welfare encourages a multi-sector relationship to meet a common goal of preventing the apprehension of infants and reducing the amount of time children spend in care."

The two-year pilot project, Restoring the Sacred Bond, will match doulas with Indigenous mothers who are at risk of having their infant apprehended into the child welfare system.

The doula pilot will support up to 200 at-risk expectant mothers. SFNNC will lead the project and work with the doula service provider, Wiji'idiwag Ikwewag, to identify expectant mothers who may not have resources to effectively parent their baby. These mothers will then be connected to doulas, who are women trained to help with childbirth and early care.

Program success will be measured on reduced days in care of children in the program compared to children outside the program.

The project is now open for investment and investors may contact sibs@gov.mb.ca or visit www.gov.mb.ca/sib/index.html for more information.

While this is the province's first SIB, the minister noted the Manitoba government will proceed with submissions in other areas of government in the coming months.

MANITOBA PROTECTING TAXPAYERS ON STADIUM LOAN

The Manitoba government is refinancing a \$35.3-million loan facility obtained by Triple B Stadium Inc. (Triple B) in order to protect taxpayers' exposure to approximately \$500,000 in annual interest charges, Finance Minister Scott Fielding announced this week.

"The actions we are announcing today will reduce the risk to taxpayers," said Fielding. "This is one more step in our efforts to clean up the financial mess caused by the previous government's mishandling of the financing of the construction of the stadium."

In 2015, the previous NDP government provided a loan guarantee to Triple B to borrow up to \$35.3 million for urgent repairs needed to Investors Group Field (IGF). As of November 2018, a total of \$25.5 million has been borrowed by Triple B.

In addition to the construction deficiency loan, the previous NDP government approved an initial loan of \$160 million to the University of Manitoba (U of M) in 2011 to finance construction of IGF. The U of M then loaned that money to Triple B. It was a deceptive scheme that made it impossible for Triple B and the Winnipeg Football Club to pay the interest on the loan, let alone the cost of ongoing capital maintenance and repairs to the stadium, Fielding said.

The province continues to collect on the terms of the \$160-million loan, and both Triple B and the Winnipeg Football Club remain obligated to meet their contractual commitments under the terms of that loan agreement.

GOVERNMENT CELEBRATES OPENING OF UBISOFT WINNIPEG



Ubisoft Entertainment, one of the world's largest interactive entertainment publishers, has opened its new Winnipeg video game development studio, Growth, Enterprise and Trade Minister Blaine Pedersen announced this week.

"We are excited to see Ubisoft open the doors to its Winnipeg studio," said Pedersen. "We are pleased Manitoba's Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit has attracted one of game industry's largest players, and look forward to its arrival creating jobs and sparking the industry's growth in Manitoba."

Founded in France, Ubisoft has more than 15,000 employees including 5,000 in Canada. In 2017-18, the company's total annual sales exceeded 1.7 billion euros. Ubisoft plans to invest C\$35 million in Manitoba and create approximately 100 new jobs for skilled workers in Winnipeg over the next five years.

"With the arrival of Ubisoft, there will be new opportunities for people to work in the exciting fields of interactive digital media, information and communications technology," Pedersen said. "Opportunities like these are key to ensuring young Manitobans have great career possibilities, right here at home, as well as attracting new residents to our province."

YOUR PC MLAs IN THE COMMUNITY!

The last month has been a busy one for your PC MLA team. Here are a few snapshots from events all across Manitoba!

